GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5394
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
FIRE IN FORESTS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of fire in the forests and the estimated loss suffered during the last three years and current year, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for protection of forests from fire?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) The management of forest resources at the field level is primarily the responsibility of the State Govrnments.The forest fire incidents are not recorded and compiled at the Government of India level. However, the Government of India had assessed the losses for forest fires based on the satellite imagery and work done by the Forest Survey of India.Around 3 million ha. of forest area is annually affected by forest fires in the country, causing a loss of around Rs.440 crores.

(b) The Central Government is implementing a Plan scheme `Forest Fire Control & Management` since 8th Five Year Plan with 100% Central assistance to the States. The situation was reviewed in 1999 and a Master Plan was prepared, envisaging assistance to the State Governments based on identification of fire prone areas. The Plan involves assistance to the Joint Forest Management Committees for fire prevention and control, taking help of the latest satellite remote sensing technology in monitoring of forest fires and assessing the losses, preparation of fire danger rating systems and use of other traditional methods.